



THE



# GARZETTE



Volume 17, Issue 12

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

Inside this issue:

From the President

1

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Calendar

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ARES

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VE Schedules  
Club Meetings

4

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contest. December 13 is the ARRL 10M contest. A lot more info on contesting is available on line at [www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com) .

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I look forward to our Holiday Party, Friday evening December 12. We'll start at about 6:30 and eat about 7:00. Reservations are required, so be sure to contact me or Randy to get on the roster.

Apparel

9

No regular meeting in December.

73

Norm, WA4ZXV



Sponsors

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## A Note from the President, Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV



For a bunch of "communicators" or "hams", we don't do a lot of communicating. The VHF and UHF repeater systems are barely used, the Yahoo Email List is used primarily for meeting announcement and other club business. Don't we have anything to talk about? Are we so diverse in our radio operating that there are no questions to ask, or ideas to share? Sure, many of us are settled in to our daily, weekly, monthly radio habits. We have our stations built and don't have much new and exciting going on. Well, that's probably true for a very small portion of the club. Many are working contests, trying a new antenna, or trying a new mode like PSK or packet or Olivia. Share your experiences with the rest of us. Ask questions. Give answers. Participate!

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# December 2008

## The GARZETTE

*The GARZETTE* is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to [ka4kkf@arrl.net](mailto:ka4kkf@arrl.net). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

*The GARZETTE* is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:  
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All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048  
Attn: Newsletter Editor

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 2000 2m net	2	3 2100 6m net	4	5	6 0730 breakfast
7	8 2000 2m net	9	10 2100 6m net	11	12	13 0730 breakfast Party
14	15 2000 2m net	16	17 2100 6m net	18	19	20 0730 breakfast
21	22 2000 2m net	23	24 2100 6m net	25 	26	27 0730 breakfast
28	29 2000 2m net	30	31 2100 6m net	Jan. 1 Happy New Year	2	3 0730 breakfast Hamfest
4	5 2000 2m net	6	7 2100 6m net	8	9	10 TechFest 0730 breakfast

## GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## GARS Communication System

Do you know a boy or girl  
14 to 21 years old  
who wants to:

Climb, Hike  
Canoe, Camp  
Talk on an amateur radio  
Have Fun  
Tell them about

## Venture Crew 73

We meet the second Tuesday  
of each Month at 7:00PM  
prior to the GARS meeting at  
St. Marguerite D'Youville  
Church..

For more information Visit  
[www.gars.org/crew73](http://www.gars.org/crew73)  
or contact Ray Back:

Email [crew73@gars.org](mailto:crew73@gars.org)  
Phone (770) 295-9174

### 70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

### APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

### Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

### Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

### Remote Receive Sites

Bogon Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,  
Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

### 6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)  
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star  
WD4STR  
146.970 - (600KHZ)  
440.550 + (5MHZ)



Did you know this

about ARES?

Gwinnett ARES is home to the largest active group of ARES members in Georgia. This active group, many of whom are also GARS members contribute many hours of public service and training in emergency communications each month. Through the month of October for 2008, Gwinnett ARES members have conducted 98 nets and participated in 890 man-hours of drills, tests and training. Total hours contributed are over 3500 man hours so far in 2008. Through the close cooperation of Gwinnett to ARES and GARS, we are able to provide many communications and public services Gwinnett County.

John Davis WB4QDX

Emergency Coordinator

Gwinnett ARES and  
GARS member



Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at [www.arrl-ga.org](http://www.arrl-ga.org)

**First Saturday, Even Months**

9:00AM  
EOC Building  
Butch Nitz, AF4FS  
(770) 968-8780

**First Wednesday**

7:00 PM  
ARRL/VEC  
Roberts School  
4681 School Street,  
Acworth  
Jodi Escher AG4BK  
770-387-1591

**Second Saturday, Odd Months**

ARRL VEC  
8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist  
Church  
5312 West Mountain St.  
Stone Mountain  
Bob Varone, W4ETN  
(770) 978-3179

**Third Saturday**

CA VEC  
9:00AM  
Marietta First United  
Methodist Church Room 305, 56  
Whitlock Ave  
Marietta  
David Still, WB4RRD  
(770) 973-2566

**Fourth Tuesday**

ARRL VEC  
7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road,  
Douglasville

**Third Sunday**

W5YI VEC  
3:00 - 5:00 PM  
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge  
465 South Perry Street  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044  
770-963-5721

**Fourth Sunday**

2:30 PM  
Georgia Tech  
GATECH-VANLEER ELEC ENGRG  
BLDG-RMW218  
777 ATLANTIC DRIVE  
[WWW.W4AQL.ORG](http://WWW.W4AQL.ORG)  
TALKIN 145.15-PL 167.9  
ATLANTA, GA 30332  
Contact: ALEXANDER G CARVER  
(404)894-2936  
[ACARVER@ECE.GATECH.EDU](mailto:ACARVER@ECE.GATECH.EDU)

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings**First Tuesday**

Kennehoochee ARC  
Southern Polytechnic  
State University  
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM  
Talk In 146.880(-)

**Second Monday**

Georgia Tech ARC  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical  
Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00 PM

**First Thursday**

Atlanta Radio Club  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta  
Meeting is at 7:30 PM  
Talk In -146.820(-)

**N.E. Georgia ARC**

Commerce Public Library  
Meeting is at 6:30 PM  
Talk In - 147.225 (+)  
PL 123.0

**Second Thursday**

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
Annistown Road Baptist Church  
Intersection of Annistown Rd  
& Spain Rd  
Stone Mountain  
Dinner at 6:00 PM  
Meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 146.760 (-)

**Third Tuesday**

North Fulton Amateur Radio  
League  
Alpharetta EOC located at  
2970 Webb Bridge Road, in Al-  
pharetta  
meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 145.47 (-)

**Second Saturday**

North GA QRP Club  
Wiecuca Baptist Church on  
Peachtree Rd/Wiecuca, 10 AM

## Where Am I?

by Brian R. Page, N4TRB

Someday they'll come back, the sunspots, that is. And when they do, those of you who have become radio hams in the last few years will get to discover a new hobby, one that includes worldwide HF propagation. You'll learn that those of us who babble about working the island of Mauritius in the India Ocean or McMurdo Sound in Antarctica on 100 watts with a little dipole up 30-feet aren't a little touched in the head. This stuff really happens; trust me on that!

Anyway, when the sunspots return and the F-layer becomes saturated in its ionized glory you too can work the world on 10 meters. When that happens you'll need to attend to the little matter of confirming the contact with a QSL card. Sure, Logbook of the World (LoTW) makes it possible to do the confirmation online; but LoTW can never replace an honest-to-goodness QSL *card* that you can hold in your hand, pin to the wall, and remind you of the glory days once the sunspots have again disappeared.

QSL cards are available from many printers. My favorite is UX5UO (<http://www.ux5uoqsl.com/>) but there are many reputable dealers; and you can even print them yourself if you have the time and patience. However you create your card, there are certain pieces of information that you need to include. Most important, and really all that is actually required, are the details of the contact. This boils down to call sign, date, time, and band. The date and time, of course, are specified in UTC format. Beyond the essentials, most operators include the signal report as Readability, Strength, and Tone (RST) for CW operation or just RS for SSB exchanges. Additionally, the mode of the contact and the output power of your transmitter are often included.

Finally, you ought to include details on your location. It might be natural to think of your street address, but that's really of little interest. Instead, it's probably more important to list your county. That's right, COUNTY, not COUNTRY. There are legions of county hunters who aspire to confirm contacts with every county in the United States! Some of the most fervent county hunters are DX stations. So be sure to list your county on your QSL card.

Beyond county, you also need to identify your location by several other well accepted schemes. These include International Telecommunications Union (ITU) zone, CQ Zone, and Maidenhead grid square. Gathering these details isn't as easy as finding your county so let's look at each in detail.

### International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Zone

The ITU is the coordinating body for worldwide frequency allocation. It's a United Nations agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Getting the world to agree on frequency utilization is a tough job; but fortunately for us hams, all we care about are the zones into which the ITU has carved up the world. Figure 1 shows the world according to the ITU. We are clearly in ITU Zone 8, and this fact should be listed on your QSL card. Here's a website link to the ITU web map of the world: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/terrestrial/broadcast/hf/refdata/maps/index.html>. This leads to a clickable map which allows you to zoom in for more detail. As you can see, the entire east coast of the United States is in ITU Zone 8, but the U. S. also encompasses zones 6 and 7 too.

### CQ Zones

*CQ Magazine* sponsors the popular and cut-throat CQ Worldwide DX Contests (SSB & CW) each year. Points are awarded, in part, based on the geographical zone of the stations locations. To meet these ends, *CQ Magazine*, like the ITU but without any legal authority, divided the world into zones. See figure 2. Here's a link to the CQ Zone map of the world: <http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/CQ/index.html>. We're in CQ Zone 5 along with most of the Atlantic Ocean.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

## Maidenhead Grid Square

The Maidenhead Locator System was developed by VHF radio operators and divides the world into rectangles based on latitude and longitude. Each Maidenhead Grid Square represents  $1^{\circ}$  of latitude by  $2^{\circ}$  of longitude, and the coordinates are encoded in a scheme that is more easily sent by Morse code than the actual latitude and longitude. The Maidenhead Grid Square is the most specific of the zone schemes and unlike the ITU and CQ zones, the Maidenhead Grid Squares will vary even within our county. Prior to the advent of personal computers and especially the Internet, it was something of a challenge to unambiguously determine your Maidenhead location. Now, however, it's easy and even fun. The key, of course, is the World Wide Web. QRZ.com provides a terrific grid square locator: [www.qrz.com/gridfinder](http://www.qrz.com/gridfinder). Navigate to this web site and plug in your street address. You're rewarded with a view such as figure 3 listing not only your grid square, but also a Google Map showing your location. As you can see from the illustration, my grid square is EM74xa. You can also zoom in and reposition the red marker if you need to make fine adjustments to your location. And since this uses Google Maps, you can also switch to an aerial view to actually find your location (figure 4).

Now I have the location information for my QSL card: I live in Gwinnett County, ITU Zone 8, CQ Zone 5, and Maidenhead Grid Square EM74xa. So as one example amongst thousands of possible arrangements, my card looks like figure 5. For more examples of the data portion of QSL cards, see the web site of KB3IFH, a printer: <http://kb3ifh.homestead.com/qslbacks.html>. Now where are those sunspots...?

### ITU ZONES AND REGIONS

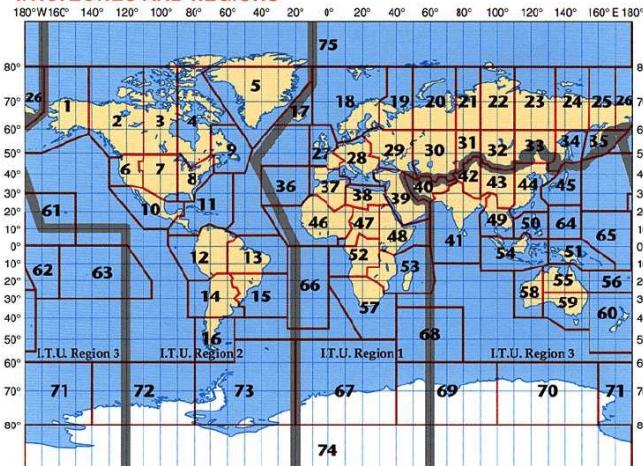


Figure 1

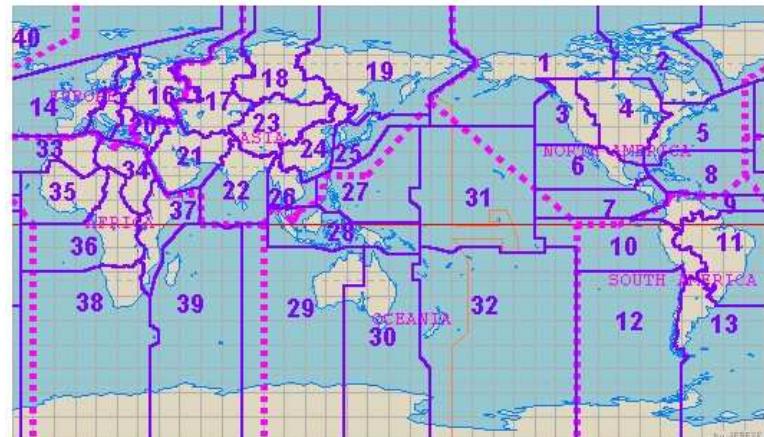


figure 2

continued on page 7

## Who is WA4ZXV

Norman Schklar, WA4ZXV, first licensed in 1966 as WN4ZXV. I took the code test for my Novice license with a flashlight while attending Army Signal Officers Candidate School at Fort Gordon, GA.

While waiting for orders to Germany, my wife, Susie, and I lived in a mobile home park at Hephzibah, GA. I found an Eico720 transmitter and a Hammarlund receiver. I knew a little about antennas because I had a CB radio and an SWR meter when I was in high school, so I stuck a piece of wire out the window, tuned the transmitter just like the book said, and off I was in the world of amateur radio.

After a few months I was shipped to Germany where I was licensed as DL4JC. I soon took the General Class test from a 31Bravo HF Station operator.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6 , where am I

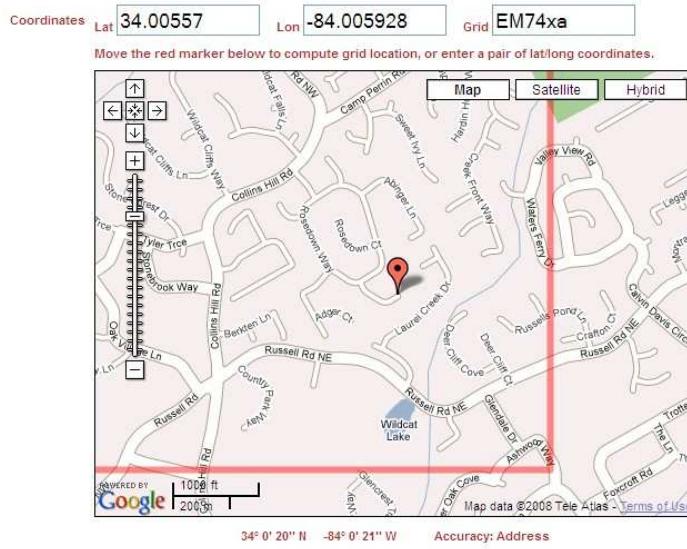


Figure 3

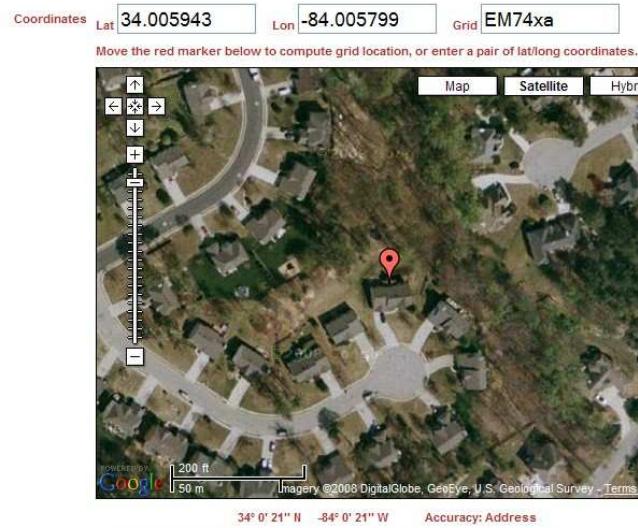


Figure 4

Continued from page 6, who is wa4zvx

While in Germany, the Army was giving SP600's to MARS operators, so I signed up and had this big receiver in our guest bedroom in Darmstadt, Germany. After a few weeks, I found that I could get a Hallicrafters BC610 transmitter and AM modulator from MARS, and I could also get an extra weight allowance for the freight to send it state-side when I left Darmstadt.

So here was the boat anchor in my guest room, now radio shack. One of the men at the MARS station knew how to set it up, and for the first time ever, the Army allowed a long wire to be strung up across the back yard. My first contact with the BC610 in CW mode (I couldn't get the modulator to work) was with a station in Vancouver Island, BC. It wasn't long until Lieutenant Schklar had to have a little more power than what was showing up on the meter. I was told that removing capacitor XYZ would increase the output 10%. So I went to remove the capacitor. This thing was about the size of a shoe box. Well, if you take the connections loose before discharging the capacitor you might get shocked so bad that it causes your legs to straighten like a frogs, and throw you against the closet door. I was lucky to hit the hollow door instead of the wall. If I had hit the wall, I think I would still be in Germany.

It was soon time to leave for Vietnam. All my gear went to my parent's basement in Murfreesboro, TN, my XYL went to stay with her mother in Nashville, and off I went to fight the enemy. My assignment in Vietnam was to supply communications for the Corps Commander. I also picked up Officer in Charge of the MARS station at a post called Plantation which was near Long Bin. After Vietnam, I returned to Murfreesboro where I was active in RACES and several VHF projects. I built several pieces of Heath Kit equipment and operated on a regular basis on HF and VHF voice. After a while, I decided I should have some "store bought" equipment and invested in the Drake "C" Twins. Soon after purchasing the Drake gear I quit operating HF. In the mid 90's I moved to Atlanta. Jim Bruce, K1FF discovered that I was a HAM without any equipment, and loaned me an HF rig and helped install a dipole. Not much later, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP, found my name in an ARRL announcement. He called and invited me to join GARS, and the rest is history. Equipment now is a FT847, IC756Pro3, RockMite-40 QRP rig, 2 dipoles, and 40 ft of tower with damaged beams from a downed tree. For the past few years I have operated almost exclusively CW. While setting up for Straight Key Night this past New Years, I discovered that the only straight I had was part of an old code practice oscillator. I have since fixed this problem by adding a J-38. I enjoy some light public service work, field day, good food, and working with GARS to build the best radio group in GA.

I am very proud to have the honor of my friends naming me GARS 2003 "Ham of the Year". And in 2006, 2007, 2008 I was elected club president.

I enjoy QRP and help with the North Georgia QRP Club and I'm active in QRP-ARCI (QRP Amateur Radio Club International), Chairperson for QRP-ARCI's FDIM 2007, 2008 (Four Days in May). Active in ARES.

I hold the ARRL title of Public Information Coordinator for the Georgia Section.

**N4TRB**

Brian R. Page

1717 Tidewell Trace  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043  
 Gwinnett County, USA  
 brian@gladlylearn.com

Call	Date			UTC	MHz	RST	Mode	Pwr
	M	D	Y					

Comments:

ITU Zone: 8  
 CQ Zone: 5  
 Grid: EM74xa  
 QCWA: 33876  
 QRP ARCI: 12787  
 QSL:  PSE  TNX

Photo: SABLE-3 Amateur Balloon by Tony Rafaat. Used with permission.

Figure 5

**Party Time**

## GARS

### APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
<b>T-SHIRT</b>				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
<b>GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
<b>GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
<b>SWEATSHIRT</b>				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
<b>LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY</b>				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
<b>HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY</b>				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
<b>GARS BADGE -- WITH name &amp; call</b>			\$9.00	
<b>HAT -- WITHOUT name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
<b>HAT -- WITH name &amp; call</b>				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

**TOTAL ORDER PRICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

**GARS**  
**P.O. Box 88**  
**Lilburn, Georgia 30048**

**NOTE:** Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

**Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society**  
**P.O. Box 88**  
**Lilburn, GA 30048**

# **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**NEW MEMBER**

**RENEWAL**

**Amateur Call Sign** \_\_\_\_\_

**License Class**

Novice

Technician

General

Advanced

Extra

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yy)

**ARRL Member**    Yes    No    Life

**Interests** \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive the **GARZETTE** newsletter by:    US Mail    Email (please check only one)

**Type of Membership**

**Optional Contributions**

Individual \$30.00 annually

Repeater Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$15.00 annually

Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)

Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family \*\* \$35.00 annually

\*\* Available for family members residing at the same address

**Additional Family Members** \*\*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yy)

**License Class**    Technician    General    Extra    **ARRL Member**    Yes    No    Life

**Interests** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yy)

**License Class**    Technician    General    Extra    **ARRL Member**    Yes    No    Life

**Interests** \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

**GWINNETT COLLISION  
CENTER, INC.**

305 Sharon Ind. Way  
Suwanee, Georgia 30024  
945-0161  
Import and Domestic  
Unibody and Frame Repair  
Marty Fowler, KE4MLH      Mark Justice

**WORLD WIDE DISTRIBUTION**

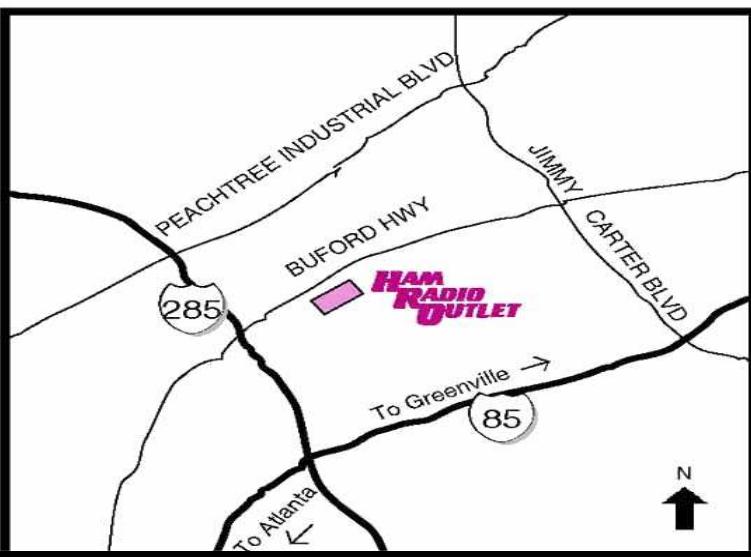


**Mark Holmes**  
**Manager**  
**KJ4VO**

**6071 Buford Highway**  
**Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)**  
**770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927**  
**Fax 770-263-9548**

**Mark KJ4VO      Bill W5RQR      David KE4VDH      Tom KB4HQA**

**Dale W4GCL      Jim N1ABM      Josh W4JDH      Brian KC4UKR**



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**Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society**  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

## Saturday Morning

### Breakfast

**Join us at the Golden Coral  
on Riverside Drive in  
Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.**

#### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, January 13th**

The Meetings are on the  
Second Tuesday of the  
month 7:30pm at the  
St Marguerite  
D'Youville Church,  
85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.  
Just off Highway 29 SW  
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web  
site.  
<http://www.gars.org>

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\*\*References available upon Request